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INFORMATION FROM
FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT

CD NO.

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Economic - Peat

HOW PUBLISHED Monthly periodical

WHERE PUBLISHED Moscow

DATE PUBLISHED Mar 1950

LANGUAGE Russian

DATE OF INFORMATION 1950

DATE DIST. 25 Jul 1950

NO. OF PAGES 1

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.



THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Torfyanaya Promyshlennost', No 3, 1950.

# MEASURES TO REMEDY LAG IN SOVIET MILLED PEAT EXTRACTION

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The milled peat method of peat extraction is more advanced than either the hydraulic or elevator methods, and the product, milled peat, produces more steam than the others. However, this system is very dependent on weather conditions and proper field drainage.

From 1936 to 1948 the plan for milled peat extraction was completed on an average of only 85 percent. Excluding the two war years, 1942 and 1943, only 87 percent of the plan was completed, although these indexes have improved during the past 4 years (1946 - 1949). In 1946 the plan was fulfilled 98 percent; in 1947, 97 percent; in 1948, 101 percent; and in 1949, 96.6 percent. However, this improvement does not guarantee stable indexes of plan fulfillment.

Data show that indexes of peat harvest per cycle were not fulfilled in any year (1936 - 1948), and the improvement shown in the years 1946 - 1949 took place because norms for the depth of peat extraction per cycle were readjusted (from 14 to 11 millimeters).

To stabilize year-to-year indexes in milled peat extraction, the number of peat cycles per season and especially the amount of peat harvested per cycle must be increased. Field drainage is the most important factor in accomplishing this. Directors of the Ozeretsko-Neplyuyevskiy, Reshetnikovskiy, and Vtoray Teykovskiy enterprises which fulfilled their plan for peat extraction 51.5, 23.7, and 77.3 percent, respectively maintained that weather conditions were responsible for their failture to fulfill their plan. This however, is true to only a small degree. In poorly drained fields, such as the fields of these enterprises, peat could not be extracted for 4 or 5 days after rains and even then tractors were less efficient in the moist peat (85 percent) and the harvest per cycle was small. Peat fields should be dried to 75 percent moisture or less to obtain the planned harvest per cycle. Many workers claim that lack of machinery or weather conditions are to blame for their low norm fulfillment. Bad weather conditions, however, can be overcome by proper field drainage.

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